

Proposed Resolutions for The 227th Convention of The Protestant Episcopal Church in the Diocese of South Carolina

Proposed Resolution #1: Standing Resolution on ACNA Fundamental Declarations

The 227th Convention of the Diocese of South Carolina hereby adopts as a Standing Resolution of the Diocese our commitment to the Fundamental Declarations of the Anglican Church in North America (ANCA).

Fundamental Declarations of the Province

As the Anglican Church in North America (the Province), being a part of the One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church of Christ, we believe and confess Jesus Christ to be the Way, the Truth, and the Life: no one comes to the Father but by Him. Therefore, we identify the following seven elements as characteristic of the Anglican Way, and essential for membership:

1. We confess the canonical books of the Old and New Testaments to be the inspired Word of God, containing all things necessary for salvation, and to be the final authority and unchangeable standard for Christian faith and life.
2. We confess Baptism and the Supper of the Lord to be Sacraments ordained by Christ Himself in the Gospel, and thus to be ministered with unfailing use of His words of institution and of the elements ordained by Him.
3. We confess the godly historic Episcopate as an inherent part of the apostolic faith and practice, and therefore as integral to the fullness and unity of the Body of Christ.
4. We confess as proved by most certain warrants of Holy Scripture the historic faith of the undivided church as declared in the three Catholic Creeds: the Apostles', the Nicene, and the Athanasian.
5. Concerning the seven Councils of the undivided Church, we affirm the teaching of the first four Councils and the Christological clarifications of the fifth, sixth and seventh Councils, in so far as they are agreeable to the Holy Scriptures.
6. We receive The Book of Common Prayer as set forth by the Church of England in 1662, together with the Ordinal attached to the same, as a standard for Anglican doctrine and discipline, and, with the Books which preceded it, as the standard for the Anglican tradition of worship.
7. We receive the Thirty-Nine Articles of Religion of 1571, taken in their literal and grammatical sense, as expressing the Anglican response to certain doctrinal issues controverted at that time, and as expressing fundamental principles of authentic Anglican belief.

In all these things, the Anglican Church in North America is determined by the help of God to hold and maintain, as the Anglican Way has received them, the doctrine, discipline and worship of Christ and to transmit the same, unimpaired, to our posterity.

We seek to be and remain in full communion with all Anglican Churches, Dioceses and Provinces that hold and maintain the Historic Faith, Doctrine, Sacraments and Discipline of the One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church.

Rationale:

The proposed addition brings the Diocesan governing documents in line with ACNA Provincial expectations for the affirmation of these governing theological principals of Anglicanism.

Proposed Resolution #2: Amendment to Canon XXVI on Annual Reports

Hereby moved that Canon XXVI, Section 4 shall be amended to read as follows.

Section 4. It shall be the duty of every Rector in charge of a Parish or congregation, or if there be no Rector in charge, of the Church Wardens, or other proper officer, a report for the year ending December 31 preceding, and to deliver the same to the Bishop of the Diocese and the Province, or where there is no Bishop, to the Secretary of the Diocese, not later than ~~February~~ March 1.

Proposed Resolution #3: Amendment to Constitution Article II “Convention Membership”

The stated required date for submission of the annual Parochial Report for all Parishes and Missions shall be changed to March 1.

Section 2. The following shall be entitled to all of the privileges as members of the Convention: The Bishop of this Diocese; the Retired Bishops of the Diocese; the Bishop Coadjutor of the Diocese, when there is one; Suffragan Bishops of this Diocese, if there be any; every clergyman who is actually and canonically resident within the Diocese and discharging the duties of his station as Rector, Minister, or Assistant Minister of an organized Parish or organized Mission; and every clergyman, who, after a continued membership of at least twenty years in the Convention is incapacitated by the infirmities of health or age from further active duties of the ministry, and is canonically and actually resident in the Diocese. The following shall also be entitled to all the privileges as members of the Convention: every clergyman canonically resident in the Diocese who is employed either by the Diocese or actively engaged in the work of the Church in the Diocese or at its affiliated institutions, PROVIDED, that no vote shall be received from any clergyman who has failed to deliver the Parochial Report required by Section 4 of Canon XXV by ~~February~~ March first (1) preceding the Convention, unless he be accorded such privilege by a majority vote of the Convention. Deacons otherwise qualified for membership in the Convention shall be entitled to seat and voice but not vote. Clergy Canonically Resident, but not otherwise qualified for membership in the Convention, shall be entitled to seat and voice, but no vote.

Section 3. Each Parish and each Mission in union with the Convention shall be entitled to lay representation in the Convention: a Parish by not more than four laypersons and a Mission by not more than two laypersons. The election of said Lay Deputies shall take place in each Parish and each Mission, which has been admitted to union with the Convention, by voice vote unless the presiding officer in his sole discretion determines that the result is unclear then it shall be by ballot of those in attendance from among the confirmed Communicants, at a meeting of the members thereof, on the Second Monday in January of each year, or some other day thereafter to be appointed, upon not less than one week's notice given by the Rector, or the Vestry, if there be no Rector. An equal number of Lay Deputies may be elected to serve as alternates or substitutes for such Lay Deputies, elected as above, who may not, from any cause, attend the Convention when it assembles, or who may not remain in such attendance; PROVIDED, that no votes shall be received from any Parish or Mission which has failed to comply with the requirements of the Canon as to Parochial Reports by ~~February~~ March first (1) preceding the Convention, unless they be accorded such privilege by a majority vote of the Convention.

Rationale:

This brings the Diocesan Constitution and Canons in line with both current Diocesan practice and ACNA Provincial Canons for reporting.

Proposed Resolution #4: Amendment to Canon XXIX “Of the Trial of a Priest or Deacon”

The following additions to the Canon are proposed.

Section 4. Of Presentments.

- (1) A Presentment to the Ecclesiastical Court may be issued only by the Standing Committee of the Diocese
- (2) A Charge against a Priest or Deacon Canonically Resident in the Diocese shall be in writing, verified and addressed to the Standing Committee of the Diocese, [containing the asserted facts supporting the allegations](#).
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- (7) Except as expressly provided in the Canon, the Bishop of the Diocese shall not prefer a Charge against a Priest or Deacon Canonically Resident in this Diocese. If, however, a Priest or Deacon is charged with an Offense or Offenses or serious acts are complained of to the Bishop that would constitute the grounds for a Charge of an Offense, and, in the opinion of the Bishop, the Charge or complaint of serious acts is supported by sufficient facts, the Bishop may issue a Temporary Inhibition. A Temporary Inhibition must (i) be in writing, (ii) set forth the reasons for its issuance, (iii) be specific in its terms, (iv) define the Offense or Offenses charged or serious acts complained of, (v) describe in reasonable detail the act or acts inhibited, (vi) be promptly served upon the Priest or Deacon to be inhibited, and (vii) become effective upon being served upon the Priest or Deacon to be inhibited.

[Such inhibition may be appealed to the Archbishop of the Province, consistent with process as provided in ACNA Canon IV.9.](#)

Section 6. Inhibitions, Sentences and Appeals.

- (6) It shall be lawful for the Bishop to pronounce a lesser Sentence upon a Priest or Deacon than that adjudged by the Trial Court, if the Bishop so choose. [Sentence may also be appealed to the Archbishop of the Province, consistent with the process as provided in ACNA Canons IV.5.5-6.](#)

Rationale:

These additions bring our Diocesan canons in line with the Ecclesiastical Trial due process delineated in the ACNA Canons.

Proposed Resolution #5: Amendment to Canon XXXI “Rules of Order, Rule 21”

The following amendments to the Canon are proposed.

Rule 21. At any convention called for the purpose of electing a Bishop diocesan, Coadjutor, Suffragan, or Assistant the process of nomination shall be as follows:

- (1) All nominations shall be made to the convention by the President of the Standing Committee with the advice of the Search Committee.
- (2) All petitions to nominate a candidate for the office of bishop shall be submitted to the Search Committee appointed for the purpose of advising the Standing Committee regarding nomination of candidates no later than forty-five (45) days before the date set for the convening of the convention called to elect a bishop. The Search Committee has the authority both to seek and receive nominations. No petitions shall be received after that date and no nominations shall be in order in the convention after that date. The Search Committee and the Standing Committee shall have full discretion in determining the number of nominees which shall be considered by the convention.
- (3) The petition shall state that the petitioners believe that the candidate being nominated is duly qualified and shall be signed by 5 clergy persons and 5 delegates elected to participate in the convention.
- (4) The petition shall be signed by the person being nominated stating the following:
 - (a) That he ~~or she~~ consents to being nominated and verily believes that he ~~or she~~ is duly qualified to be nominated for the office of bishop and knows of no impediment to being consecrated.
 - (b) That he ~~or she~~ consents to a background check to verify his ~~or her~~ qualification.
 - (c) That he ~~or she~~ consents to a medical and licensed psychiatrist examination to verify his ~~or her~~ qualification to undertake the work for which he ~~or she~~ may be chosen.
 - (d) That he ~~or she~~ consents to participation in a “walk around” to be scheduled in advance of the convention in order to give delegates to the convention the opportunity to see and talk with the person being nominated.
- (5) The name and address of the chairperson of the Search Committee will be given in the notice for the calling for the convention to elect a bishop.
- (6) A person is duly qualified to be on the slate for election having met the following criteria:
 - (a) ~~They have~~ He has been nominated by the Search Committee.
 - (b) ~~They have~~ He accepted the nomination, in writing
 - (c) ~~They have~~ He signed a document that states ~~they have~~ he has no known impediment that would prevent ~~them~~ him from serving.
 - (d) ~~They have~~ He had and passed a background check.

(e) ~~They have~~ He had and passed the psychiatric exam, administered by the person who has been selected by the Search Committee and Standing Committee.

(f) ~~They~~ He accepts the requirement to participate in the walk around so that delegates have ample opportunity to come to know him ~~them~~. No one shall be elected bishop who has not participated in the walk around.

(7) The Search Committee shall publish to the delegates in writing the names of those persons being recommended to the Standing Committee not less than thirty (30) days before the date of the convening of the Convention. A petition candidate whose name has been previously submitted to the Search Committee and not included on those recommended to the Standing Committee may be included by the Standing Committee, in its discretion, as a nominee upon the appeal of at least three (3) clergy and three (3) delegates whose names appear on the petition previously filed with the Search Committee. This appeal and request for inclusion shall be filed with the Standing Committee in writing not less than fifteen (15) days before the convening of the Convention in order to allow for participation of all nominees in the “walk around”. The decision of the Standing Committee as to the names and number of persons being nominated to the Convention shall be final. The “walk around” shall not be scheduled until after the appeal, if any has been concluded.

(8) Upon election, the person selected shall be presented to the Provincial College of Bishops for consent and ordering of the consecration by the Archbishop.

Rationale:

1. *Provincial Canons only allow for the election of male candidates to the Episcopate.*
2. *Provincial Canons require that all Episcopal elections be consented to by the College of Bishops, prior to the ordering of the consecration by the Archbishop.*